



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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WENDY L. WATANABE  
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March 4, 2013

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe  
Auditor-Controller

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Wendy L. Watanabe", is written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY POLICY  
ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) to extend the Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care's (PRCC or Roundtable) sunset review date to June 30, 2016.

**BACKGROUND**

The Board established and has continued the Roundtable pursuant to Los Angeles County Code Chapter 3.75. The Board approved the most recent sunset review date extension in May 2007.

The PRCC represents the County on all child care matters, and works in collaboration with the Child Care Planning Committee, a State-mandated child care planning council. The PRCC makes recommendations to the Board to build and strengthen the child care system and infrastructure in the County.

In May 2011, the Board authorized the PRCC to add representatives from the Departments of Mental Health (DMH), Public Health, and Probation, increasing the membership from 22 to 25, all appointed by the Board. Members include representatives from specified County departments, school districts, and other child care agencies, as well as outside experts in child care issues. Membership requirements are detailed in Los Angeles County Code Chapter 3.75.

The County Code allows the PRCC to adopt bylaws, including how often the PRCC should meet. The PRCC's adopted bylaws require the Roundtable to meet monthly.

Roundtable members are not compensated for their service. The Chief Executive Office's (CEO) Office of Child Care (OCC) estimates that they spend approximately \$44,500 annually for PRCC staff support, parking permits, and services and supplies. These costs are paid from annual California Department of Education grants.

## **JUSTIFICATION**

The PRCC met 37 times between January 2009 and March 2012 (approximately 11 times per year). The PRCC's average attendance between January 2009 and May 2011 was 11.7 (53%) members, and 15.3 (61%) members between June 2011 and March 2012. Although the average attendance was low in the past, attendance has recently improved. Additionally, the Roundtable successfully fulfilled its duties.

During this review period, the Roundtable's accomplishments included:

- Developing the Steps to Excellence Project, a quality rating and support system for child care programs.
- Providing input on the Child Care Policy Framework, and collaborating with the CEO to update the Framework in March 2011.
- Providing support for the collaboration between the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Los Angeles County Office of Education Head Start State Preschool, which resulted in the enrollment of approximately 200 foster children in Head Start State Preschools.
- Making recommendations to the Board to address the potential impact of legislative and budget proposals. For example, the Roundtable recommended that the Board support Assembly Bill 1872, which would require family child care homes to ensure that meals and snacks meet the recommended servings for the four basic food groups as specified by the United States Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program.

The Roundtable's objectives for the next review period are to:

- Work with the OCC to recruit public and private sector partners to advocate for funding to ensure the safety of children, promote school success, and strengthen families.
- Work with DCFS, Probation, and other stakeholders to find legislative solutions to facilitate access to child development services for at-risk or abused children, and identify new/non-traditional funding for child development services.

- Convene representatives of DMH and local child care resource agencies to explore using child development programs, locations, etc., to provide mental health services.
- Support Family Solution Centers to coordinate early child care and education services. Family Solution Centers provide housing and supportive services (e.g., employment development, child care, medical and mental health services, etc.) to homeless families.

Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Robert Smythe at (213) 253-0101.

WLW:JLS:RS:TK

Attachment

c: Jacquelyn McCroskey, Chair, Policy Roundtable for Child Care  
Kathleen Malaske-Samu, Director, Office of Child Care, Chief Executive Office  
Angie Johnson, Chief, Commission Services

**COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW**  
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY POLICY ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE**  
**REVIEW COMMENTS**

**Mission.** (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' (Board) purpose and expectations?)

The stated mission is as set forth in the ordinance establishing the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (PRCC or Roundtable). **CONCUR.**

**Section 1. Relevance.** (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The PRCC represents the County on all child care matters, and works in collaboration with the Child Care Planning Committee, a State-mandated child care planning council. The PRCC makes recommendations to the Board to build and strengthen the child care system and infrastructure in the County.

The Roundtable's mission appears to be **RELEVANT.**

**Section 2. Meetings and Attendance.** (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The PRCC met 37 times between January 2009 and March 2012 (approximately 11 times per year). In May 2011, the Board increased the PRCC from 22 to 25 members. The PRCC's average attendance between January 2009 and May 2011 was 11.7 (53%) members, and 15.3 (61%) members between June 2011 and March 2012. Although the average attendance was low in the past, recent attendance has improved to at least 60%. Additionally, the Roundtable successfully fulfilled its duties.

The Roundtable's meeting frequency and attendance are **SATISFACTORY.**

**Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results.** (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

During this review period, the Roundtable's accomplishments included:

- Developing the Steps to Excellence Project, a quality rating and support system for child care programs.
- Providing input on the Child Care Policy Framework, and collaborating with the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to update the Framework in March 2011.

- Providing support for the collaboration between Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Los Angeles County Office of Education Head Start State Preschool, which resulted in the enrollment of approximately 200 foster children in Head Start State Preschools.
- Making recommendations to the Board to address the potential impact of legislative and budget proposals. For example, the Roundtable recommended that the Board support Assembly Bill 1872, which would require family child care homes to ensure that meals and snacks meet the recommended servings for the four basic food groups as specified by the United States Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program.

The Roundtable's accomplishments and results are **SIGNIFICANT**.

**Section 5. Objectives.** (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

The Roundtable's objectives for the next review period are to:

- Work with the Office of Child Care (OCC) to recruit public and private sector partners to advocate for funding to ensure the safety of children, promote school success, and strengthen families.
- Work with DCFS, Probation Department, and other stakeholders to find legislative solutions to facilitate access to child development services for at-risk or abused children, and identify new/non-traditional funding for child development services.
- Convene representatives of Department of Mental Health and local child care resource agencies to explore using child development programs, locations, etc., to provide mental health services.
- Support Family Solution Centers to coordinate early child care and education services. Family Solution Centers provide housing and supportive services (e.g., employment development, child care, medical and mental health services, etc.) to homeless families.

The Roundtable's future objectives appear **RELEVANT**.

**Section 6. Resources.** (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

Roundtable members are not compensated for their service. The OCC estimates that they spend approximately \$44,500 annually for PRCC staff support, parking permits, and services and supplies. These costs are paid from annual California Department of Education grants.

The Roundtable's expenses appear to be WARRANTED.

**Section 7. Recommendation.**

**EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
POLICY ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE TO JUNE 30, 2016.**